



The new packaging center at Brooklyn, N. Y., which began operations on September 11. Since this photograph was taken, the volunteers have obtained their regulation blue smocks.

PACKAGING CENTERS

Since the opening of the new Brooklyn, N. Y., plant on September 11, the total weekly output of prisoner of war food packages has averaged over 300,000. In the week ended October 14, Center No. 1 at Philadelphia produced 79,911 packages, New York 83,871, St. Louis 79,524, and Brooklyn 67,455. In the following week the record figure of 322,044 packages was reached, with Philadelphia producing 86,640, New York 84,158, St. Louis 77,756, and Brooklyn 73,490. Up to the end of October, a grand total of over 18,000,000 packages had been filled.

"DOING WELL"

A recent report on a visit to the Lager Lazarett at Stalag VI G, located at Bonn-Duisdorf, gave a list of the British and American patients undergoing treatment there. The report on a wounded sergeant stated:

Here since November 1943. He had more or less everything broken that was humanly possible, including fractures of the skull, basin, back, and both legs. But they are all healed now, and his only trouble at present is an abscess on the right foot. Apart from that, he is doing well, but he will have to stay here for some time for further medical supervision.

WOUNDED AMERICANS IN HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA

At the end of June, the International Red Cross reported that there were 13 wounded American aviators hospitalized in Hungary. They were receiving treatment in a Hungarian military hospital at Budapest. A report on the visit stated that the men were being well cared for by Hungarian doctors, and that they were entirely satisfied with their treatment. They were scheduled to be transferred to camps in Germany as soon as they had recovered from their wounds. Unwounded aviators brought down over Hungary had been moved promptly to German camps.

A later report by cable stated that several Lazarets in Hungary, containing in all about 60 wounded Americans, were visited on August 17. Besides medicine kits, 500 capture parcels and 2,000 standard food packages for American prisoners of war had been delivered to Hungary by the International Red Cross, the report added.

In June, an International Committee Delegate also visited seven wounded American aviators hospitalized in the Zemun Lazarett near Belgrade. Each man received a Red Cross food package every week. Invalid parcels and clothing were also available. The Delegate's report stated that the men would be transferred to a "permanent" camp in Germany as soon as they had recovered. They had no complaints to make on their treatment at Zemun.

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

2, NO. 12

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 1944

The 1944 Christmas Package

Christmas Package No. 2, packed by women volunteers in the Philadelphia Center during the hottest of the summer, reached Germany via Sweden in time for distribution to American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Germany.

The ten thousand Christmas packages sent in 1943 for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe were hardly sufficient to go around, although at the time of ordering, the number seemed excessive.

No chances were taken this year. The total shipped in September was fully 50 percent in excess of the number Americans reported by Germany at that time, and much more than sufficient to cover those captured since September.

Similarly, all preparations were made insofar as they could be by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the American Red Cross—to get the packages in time to all camps and hospitals in Germany housing American prisoners. They were shipped, along with large quantities of standard food packages and other supplies, on Red Cross vessels from Philadelphia to Göteborg, Sweden, and thence transported on Swedish vessels to a north German port fairly close to the camps where the largest numbers of Americans

are now held. The aim, of course, was to avoid railroad transport in Germany as much as possible.

Much thought was given to planning the 1944 package—the basis of it being "turkey and the fixins." A complete list of the contents follows:

Plum pudding	1 lb.
Turkey, boned meat	¾ lb.
Small sausages	¼ lb.
Strawberry jam	6 oz.
Candy, assorted	¾ lb.
Deviled ham	5 oz.
Cheddar cheese	¾ lb.

Nuts, mixed	¾ lb.
Bouillon cubes	12
Fruit bars	2
Dates	14 oz.
Cherries, canned	6 oz.
Playing cards	1 pack
Chewing gum	4 pkgs.
Butter	3¾ oz.
Games, assorted	1 box
Cigarettes	3 pkgs.
Smoking tobacco	1 pkg.
Pipe	1
Tea	1¾ oz.
Honey	6 oz.
Washcloth	1
Pictures (American scenes)	2

The packages were paid for by the United States government, and the contents in large part were purchased through the Department of Agriculture.

Left unsaid, but implicit in every package, were the heartfelt wishes of the American people for the safe and speedy return of their kinsfolk.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to get a special Christmas package to American prisoners held by Japan, but it is to be hoped earnestly that the large shipment of relief supplies held in Vladivostok, which was picked up by the Japanese steamer *Hakusan Maru* early in November, will reach the camps in time for distribution at Christmas, just as the *Gripsholm* supplies shipped to the Far East in the fall of 1943 reached the men in most of the camps by Christmas.



Contents of the 1944 Christmas package for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe. More than 75,000 of these packages were shipped from Philadelphia.

Postmaster—If address has removed and new address is known, notify sender on FORM 3517.

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Reports on German Camps

Stalag Luft I

Lt. Cecil B. Fisher, AAF, who was repatriated from Germany on the latest exchange, wrote the following letter in October from the Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C., to a number of relatives and friends of American prisoners of war in Stalag Luft I:

Naturally, I am eager to communicate with the friends and relatives of the American prisoners whom I knew while in Stalag Luft I. Many have written me and before leaving Germany, I received numbers of requests from the men to communicate with their families. I have resorted to this form letter in order to write all of you promptly. I hope you will consider it as a personal letter, for there is little more information that I could send you if I wrote an original message in each case.

First, I shall tell you of camp conditions. The prisoners live in wooden barracks—anywhere from 8 to 14 men to a room. Sanitary conditions are favorable. Inmates of the barracks see to the cleanliness of the barracks themselves, equipment being furnished by the Germans. Each prisoner receives one Red Cross food parcel per week. This is supplementary to the German issue of food and assures

each man of enough to eat. No one is suffering from lack of food. Clothing and shoes are issued to each man upon his arrival in camp. Laundry is done by the prisoners themselves. They are required to do no work by the Germans, and anything they do is purely voluntary.

The YMCA made it possible for us to obtain musical instruments, sports equipment, and books. We had two orchestras in camp, one symphonic, the other for popular music. We also had equipment for baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, soccer, football, and badminton. The library is fairly large and contains varied types of literature. At the chapel in the camp, both Protestant and Catholic services were held. During my six months' stay, I saw five plays produced by the prisoners which proved highly entertaining. Along with plays, concerts, group singing, and boxing, the prisoners have a full and varied program of recreation.

Mail and packages arrived in good condition. Following are some suggestions as to what to send in packages: powdered puddings, baking powder, chocolate, dehydrated fruits and vegetables, safety pins, spices, prepared macaroni or spaghetti dinners, prepared muffin mixes, Bis-

quick, pancake flour, etc. I would not send meat since they receive plenty through the Red Cross.

There is a stove in every room and coal is issued by the German authorities. Although it is cold during the winter, we suffered no ill effects. There is also a hospital in charge of two English doctors, one an excellent surgeon. We were fortunate in having a dentist, too.

Stalag Luft I is without doubt one of the best camps in Germany. It is an Air Force camp, and they are acknowledged by all to be the best. There have been no atrocities committed in this camp. The treatment by the Germans is good and fair. Since the invasion, morale in this camp is very high and you may be assured that the boys are thinking of home and you. The medical care is pretty good, and the health of the men attending services, of all the men was good when I left.

It would seem from the foregoing letter that the men in Stalag Luft I were "briefed" Lt. Fisher on writing letters to their families wanted him to make his letters as comforting as possible.

Stalag II A

A cable received in October stated that Stalag II A at Neubrandenburg in the province of Mecklenburg (Army District II) had been reopened. On the date of cabling, the camp held 65 American prisoners of war. Sgt. Harley Lucas was named as American spokesman.

Stalag II B

Sgt. Harry Galler has been reported by M/Sgt. John McMahon as American camp spokesman at Stalag II B. The International Red Cross cabled that the American strength at II B had risen to over 6,000 by the end of September.

Stalag Luft III

Gen. Arthur W. Vanaman, a recent arrival at Luft III, is now senior officer for all three American compounds. He has been given permission by the German authorities to coordinate all matters pertaining to the three compounds. His quarters are in the Center compound, but he is permitted to visit the South and West compounds.

By the end of September, the American strength at Luft III had

to over 5,900, according to advices from Geneva. The incoming of prisoners in August and September was so large that tents had been erected in all three American compounds to house the new arrivals. A report recently received of a representative to the camp by a representative of the Prisoners Aid of the YMCA of the

of a wonderful spirit of discipline and order. All activities are conducted in 100 percent participation. Cleanliness is exemplary; and comradeship among the officers is extraordinary.

At the time of the visit, there were Protestant (British and American) and two Roman Catholic chaplains serving the six compounds. Since the invasion, morale in these American and three British) camp is very high and you may be assured that the boys are thinking of home and you. The medical care is pretty good, and the health of the men attending services, of all the men was good when I left.

Stalag IV A

Work detachment dependent on Stalag IV A was visited on September 11 by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The detachment, which had been formed only a few days earlier, comprised 50 American prisoners recently captured in France. Pvt. Grandro E. Broun was given as spokesman. The men were engaged in barracks construction in the city of Dresden.

Stalag IV A can be added to the list of European camps (published in June) in Square D7, between Stalag IV B and Dresden.

Stalag Luft IV

Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited Stalag Luft IV on October 5 and 6. The camp strength at that time was given as 7,975 Americans and 886 British, the latter including 147 Canadian, 37 Australians, 22 New Zealanders, and 8 South Africans.

The first arrivals, numbering 64 men noncoms, reached Luft IV on May 14 last. Several hundreds more reached the camp between May 14 and July 19. On the latter date, about 4,400 Americans and 800 British arrived at Luft IV from Stalag Luft



American prisoners at Luft III. Front row, left to right: Lt. Thomas Mulligan, USAAF, editor of "Kriegs Times"; Lt. (s. g.) John Dunn, USN; Major Edward Wheeler, USAAF; and Lt. John Palmer, USN. Rear: Capt. Louis McKesson, USAAF, Food and Exchange Bureau; and Lt. Ray Brunn, education officer.

VI. Since then, the camp strength has been steadily increased by arrivals from Wetzlar (Dulag Luft) and Budapest.

The transfer of British and American prisoners from Luft VI to Luft IV, according to the Delegate's preliminary report received by cable, was accomplished under very bad conditions. Many of the men, it appears, lost their personal belongings during an unnecessarily arduous trip, and the Delegates reported that they had made "energetic protests" to the German authorities.

Luft IV is situated about 12 miles from the town of Belgard (Pomerania), in an isolated clearing. There are 40 barracks, each housing 200 men. Rooms planned for 16 men, occupying double-decker bunks, held 24 men, and the bunks in some cases had not been completed. In one section, where no bunks had yet been installed, 1,900 men were sleeping on floors, each man having two blankets. There were, at the time of the visit, no heating facilities and the sanitary installations were inadequate. Means for the preparation of food from Red Cross packages were also lacking. Some relief supplies, including clothing, shipped from Luft VI when that camp was closed, had not yet reached Luft IV, with the result that some of the men were insufficiently clothed.

The general state of health was reported to be good, but the infirmary, with 132 beds, was overcrowded. Minor operations were performed

in the camp infirmary, but serious cases were evacuated to hospitals outside. Unlike the Lazarets, camp infirmaries and Reviers are not, as a rule, equipped with the necessary appliances, X-ray, etc., for more serious operations. Study courses were in process of organization, but the supply of textbooks, as well as of sports equipment and musical instruments, was inadequate. There were Protestant and Catholic chaplains at the camp, as well as medical and sanitary personnel, but not in sufficient number.

The Delegates, the cable stated, "took immediate necessary action with the competent authorities on all questions needing improvement."

Stalag VII B

A brief report, received by cable in October, stated that Stalag VII B was visited by an International Red Cross Delegate on August 21. At that time, out of a total camp strength of about 11,000, there were 513 American prisoners of war. About 400 Americans were already in work detachments. The remainder were housed in tents at the Stalag, where barracks were under construction. The name of Francis Sporil was given as American spokesman. A later cablegram stated that the American strength at VII B had increased to 911 at the end of September.

The camp storehouse had been destroyed during a bombing raid, and 500 Red Cross packages lost. Air



Christmas thoughts at Stalag Luft III. Another cartoon for Prisoners of War Bulletin from Lt. Leonard E. Hamaker, South Compound.

raid shelters for the men were reported to be satisfactory. Mail to the camp had "slowed down," and recreational activities had "not yet been organized." Hygiene and medical service were reported to be good, but there were complaints about the quality of German food issued to the men.

Stalag VII B is located at Memmingen. The October BULLETIN had placed it in Square E5, on a line between Stuttgart and Nurnberg, on the map of European camps published last June. It should have been placed in Square F5, southwest of Munich.

Stalag XVII B

Complaints are still being received from American aviation noncoms at Stalag XVII B about mail. Next-of-kin parcels, a recent report stated, were taking from three to five months, after dispatch from home, to reach the men, and incoming letter mail was said to be slow and erratic. Outgoing mail was also restricted because of the inability of the camp authorities to furnish sufficient letter-forms to the men. Shortage of letter-forms is probably responsible in part for the complaints now coming in about delays in receipt of mail from German camps and hospitals, but military operations have also affected the mail service to and from Germany.

Reports recently received also indicated that bathing, washing, and toilet facilities at Stalag XVII B were still seriously inadequate for the more than 4,000 American prisoners. The authorities have several times been urged to improve conditions at this camp. There is, unfortunately, a wide difference between the American and German conceptions of satisfactory camp conditions, and this applies not alone to Stalag XVII B.

Stalag 317

At the end of August, 35 American prisoners of war were reported at Stalag 317. This camp, formerly designated as Stalag XVIII C, is located at Markt Pongau, in Austria. The camp is mainly for British prisoners. F. E. S. Long, of the New Zealand YMCA, who is a prisoner at Stalag 317, wrote a few months ago:

The authorities have given me every assistance in visiting the men in work camps, of which there are five, and I find it possible to visit one, and sometimes two, a week. I take my gramophone and records

with me, and give a recital after the service. The men are very friendly and appreciate my visits. They are all from Italy, and although, at first, disappointed at being transferred to Germany, are now settling down. We are entirely surrounded by mountains, and must be close to 2,000 feet above sea level. One camp I visit is between 8,000 and 9,000 feet above sea level. I am domiciled in the hospital, and am able to spend a fair amount of time in the wards. The five Komandos (work detachments) range in strength from 60 to 180 men, nationalities being English, New Zealanders, South Africans, a few Americans, and Australians. The German authorities here have been splendid in their cooperation, and have granted me every assistance in visiting Komandos and conducting services in the Lager.

Oflag 64

First Lt. William C. ("Montana Bill") Burghardt, winter sports officer at Oflag 64, wrote to his father in New York:

I should be very happy if you would express publicly the deep gratitude of all officers at Oflag 64 for the skates and numerous other sports gear (including sportswear), musical instruments, books, theatrical materials, etc., presented to them by YMCA War Prisoners Aid, and which have brought the men so much happiness. I also hope the Red Cross will take a deep bow for the tremendous and wonderful job they are doing for our men in keeping them supplied with food, clothing, comforts, and the 101 other tasks



Group of American prisoners at Stalag III B. Sent by S/Sgt. Charles Mogg, extreme left.

they perform for them. Without the Red Cross and the YMCA, life as a POW would be intolerable.

"Montana Bill" was a former ski coach at the University of Montana and professional of the Idaho Ski Club. Oflag 64 is in a district well suited to winter sports.

When visited on October 11 by a Delegate of the International Red Cross, Oflag 64 contained 780 American officers and 70 orderlies. Colonel Paul Goode, was the new American senior officer. The men were reported to be in good spirits.

The winner of a recent beauty contest conducted by the camp newspaper, *Item*, was Nancy Reid, of Evanston, Illinois. Marie Benz, of Lincoln, Nebraska, was voted second, and Clara Van Syckle, of Warren, New Jersey, was third. Their pictures were on the cover of the October issue of *Item*, according to a report from War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA.

The report further stated that there had been much sports activity at the camp during the summer, and that the supply of materials was good. "Bob Ranking's orchestra" had been enlarged, and the camp theater was busy with new productions. Richard Van Syckle and John Glendinning had suggested an Oflag 64 theater tour in the United States after the war for the benefit of the YMCA.

The camp had four Protestant and two Catholic chaplains, and religious interest was reported to be great. The library had 6,000 volumes, and two skilled bookbinders in Lts. Donald and Hauschild.

German Camp Locations

By Isabelle Lynn

planation has yet been given why a few Stalags (for example, 344 and 357) are designated by Arabic numerals.

Following is a list of camps in Germany where Americans are held. First is the camp designation; second, the location of the camp by town or city; and, third, the province in which the city is located. When it is helpful in locating the town or city,

identifying information follows the province.

Most of the foregoing camps and hospitals contain only a few American prisoners of war, but in some camps (notably II B, III B, IV B, XVII B, Luft I, Luft III, and Luft IV) the number runs well into the thousands. Some of the camps (notably VII A, XII A, Dulag Luft, and probably several others) are mainly transit camps for Americans.

Stalags

- A—Neubrandenburg, Mecklenburg, E of Berlin
- B—Hammerstein, Pomerania, near Berlin
- C—Luckenwalde, Brandenburg, 30 S of Berlin
- D—Fürstenburg/Oder, Brandenburg
- E—Altdrewitz, Brandenburg, near Berlin
- F—Hohnstein, Saxony, near Dresden
- G—Mühlberg, Saxony, E of Leipzig
- H—Wistritz, Czechoslovakia, near Glatz-Schönau
- I—Torgau, Saxony, on the Elbe River
- J—Annaburg, Saxony, S of Berlin
- K—Hartmannsdorf, Saxony, near Annaburg
- L—Ludwigsburg, Württemberg, SW of Stuttgart
- M—Villingen, Baden, in Black Forest
- N—Bonn, Rhineland, S of Cologne on Rhine River
- O—Moosburg, Bavaria
- P—Memmingen, Bavaria
- Q—Lamsdorf, Silesia, SE of Breslau
- R—Teschen, Czechoslovakia, SE of Breslau
- S—Sagan, Silesia, on the Bober River
- T—Bad Orb (Wegscheid), Hesse-Nassau, E of Frankfurt
- U—Bad Sulza, Thuringia, near Kassel
- V—Bremervörde, Hanover, near Bremen
- W—Nienburg, Westphalia, SE of Bremen, on the Weser River
- X—Altengrabow, Saxony, near Magdeburg
- Y—Fallingb., Hanover
- Z—Limburg, Hesse-Nassau, on the Lahn River
- AA—Formerly at Trier; moved to Vöhrlebach, Bavaria, near Neuweid on the Rhine River
- AB—Formerly at Forbach; moved to Treisbach, Bavaria, near Bad Dürkheim
- AC—Hammelburg, Bavaria
- AD—Nürnberg Langwasser, Bavaria
- AE—Hohenfels, Bavaria, Oberpfalz
- AF—Kaisersteinbrunn, Austria, Niederdonau

XVII B—Krems/Gneixendorf, Austria
398—Popping, Austria, near Wels, Oberdonau

XVIII A—Wolfsberg, Austria, Niederdonau

XVIII C (317)—Markt Pongau, Austria, Salzburg

WK 8 BAB21—Blechhammer, Silesia, near Heydebreck

357—Kopernikus-Tórun (Thorn), Poland

XX A—Tórun (Thorn), Poland

XX B—Marienburg, East Prussia, near Danzig

Luft Camps

Luft I—Barth, Pomerania, on the Baltic

Luft III—Sagan, Silesia

Luft IV—Grosstychow, Pomerania, near Belgard

Luft VII—Bankau, Upper Silesia, near Kreuzburg

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
GREETINGS
TO THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS**



**FROM THE
AMERICAN
MERCHANT-SEAMEN
OF
MILAG-NORD. GERMANY**

From Captain R. Hansen, Senior Merchant Seaman officer at Milag Nord.

Dulag Luft—Wetzlar im Klosterwald, Nassau

Milag and Marlag

Milag Westertimke—Tarmstedt-Ost, Hanover, near Bremervörde

Marlag Westertimke—Tarmstedt-Ost, Hanover, near Bremervörde

Oflags

IV C—Colditz, Saxony

VII B—Eichstätt, Bavaria

IX A/H—Spangenberg, Hesse-Nassau

IX A/Z—Rötenburg, Hesse-Nassau

X B—Nienburg, Westphalia

XI (79)—Braunschweig, Braunschweig (Brunswick)

XXI (64)—Altburgund, Schubin, Poland, near Bydgoszcz (Bromberg)

Lazarets

IV A—Elsterhorst, Hohnstein, Saxony, near Dresden

IV G—Leipzig, Saxony

V B—Rottenmünster, Württemberg, near Rottweil

VI C—Res. Laz. Lingen, Hanover, on the Ems River

VI G—Res. Laz. Gerresheim, Rhineland, near Düsseldorf

VII A—Freising, Bavaria, near Munich

IX B—Bad Soden/Salmünster, Hesse-Nassau

IX C—Obermassfeld, Thuringia, near Meiningen

IX C—Meiningen, Thuringia

IX C—Hildburghausen, Thuringia

X A—Res. Laz. II Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein

X B—Sandb., Hanover, near Bremer-vörde

XIII D—Nürnberg Langwasser, Bavaria

XVIII A/Z—Spittal/Drau, southern Austria

Marinelazarett Cuxhaven, Hanover, mouth of the Elbe River

Luftwaffenlazarett 4/11 Wismar, Mecklenburg, E of Lübeck on Baltic

Res. Laz. II, Vienna, Austria

Res. Laz. Graz, southern Austria

Res. Laz. Wollstein, Poland, near Bydgoszcz (Bromberg).

Determining the Fate of Army Personnel Missing in Action

By Col. George F. Herbert, A. G. D.,
Chief, Casualty Branch

When army personnel are reported to the War Department as missing, whether during routine aircraft practice flights, from transcontinental air lanes, or in action, there begin a series of actions that do not cease until each man's fate is known or determined. The work involved in the War Department and its armies and air forces by a report of missing follows the same pattern whether it concerns Private John J. Doe, his commanding officer, a colonel, or a general. The object of this activity is simply to "get all the facts available and get them straight," as quickly as possible.

Even though there is heartfelt sympathy on the part of General James A. Ullo, Adjutant General of the Army, and his staff of Casualty Branch workers, as they discharge the responsibility of notifying the next of kin of casualties, there is no suggestion of finality in the report "missing in action." The Casualty Branch knows that more than 50 percent of the missing men will be accounted for within a few weeks or months.

When members of the Army Air Forces fail to return from a mission and are reported missing in action, a report containing all known facts is rendered the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C., by others who participated in the same flight. This report must meet the requirement of "getting all the facts available and getting them straight." If it was observed that the plane concerned was damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire, the report will so state. If a certain number of parachutes were seen to open, this will also be reported. The locality over which the accident occurred is extremely important, for by that can be judged each man's chances of capture by the enemy, being in friendly hands, or rejoining his organization as soon as he can be rescued. The information contained in this report is forwarded by the Army Air Forces immediately upon receipt in Washington to the emergency addressee (named by the soldier prior to his departure from

the United States) who has already been notified by The Adjutant General that the soldier is missing in action.

Reporting Casualties

In the Ground Forces, it is another story. Names of men missing in action are turned up by daily roll calls which form the basis of the morning reports kept by each company or similar organization. Delays in reporting casualties vary according to the battle conditions existing in the particular theater of operations. In any front-line area, military operations come first, and even reports of such great importance as those on casualties must wait for a lull in the fighting. Oftentimes such a delay in the first stages of casualty reports is a protection against inaccuracy. A man may be reported missing from his own small detachment and yet show up elsewhere in the regiment or division. The correction of his missing status will thus be made before the consolidated casualty reports are sent to Washington through theater headquarters.

The determination in Washington of what has happened to a missing soldier is by no means a hasty operation. It frequently involves consultation with other government departments and agencies to develop facts which may aid in determination. Hydrographic authorities are consulted as to tides and currents in an effort to establish beyond reasonable doubt whether a body washed ashore might be a casualty from a ship sunk some two hundred miles or more away. The United States Weather Bureau is sometimes consulted as to the direction and velocity of winds on specific dates and in specified areas to ascertain what role they may have played in bringing a missing aviator and his rubber raft ashore, or of driving him further to sea.

Other factors which necessarily must be considered include the lapse of time of absence, the change of enemy practices in reporting prisoners,* the recapture or occupation of

territory, the receipt or disclosure of delayed death reports, discoveries of marked graves or other reliable evidence of death, the exchange of prisoners of war, and, finally, the cessation of hostilities.

Identification Difficulties

These factors sound broad in scope, but each and every case is extremely personalized. Typical examples are those cases where airplane crashes have made the task of identification extremely difficult, and where fragmentation bombs or shells cause the same difficulty in Ground Force identifications. One such case which was reported from the Southwest Pacific Area follows: A native found the wreckage of a United States Army plane near the banks of a small stream. The officer who investigated the wreckage could supply only a few details—a neckband of a shirt with several initials, Air Corps insignia, insignia of rank, impressions of upper and lower dental structure, a certain shoe size, and the color of the victim's hair. The only Air Corps officer of similar rank and initials listed in the files of the Casualty Branch as missing in action in the same area had the same color hair, and the dental chart made upon his induction coincided with the impressions taken by the reporting officer, except for one or two fillings.

On the basis of this evidence, the identification was accepted and the missing man's status changed to "killed in action." Three weeks later, a sergeant missing from the same flight which took the officer's life wandered back to his base. He confirmed the crash near the stream and the death of the pilot already identified.

Another instance was that of a report received in the Casualty Branch concerning a soldier killed in action

*The manpower shortage in Germany, the terrific destruction caused by bombing, the chaotic transportation conditions, and other consequences of recent Allied military operations, have no doubt affected the German reporting service on prisoners of war.—Ed.

in an engagement in Tunisia whom there was neither name, rank, nor army serial number. The identifying details available were a laundry mark and a right thumbprint. A check with the War Department's fingerprint file showed the thumbprint to be of the left thumb of a soldier missing in action in Tunisia whose initials matched those on the laundry mark. Apparently the soldier's right thumb had been placed on the spot marked on the left on his induction record. At any rate, the Casualty Branch acted the identification after consulting with fingerprint experts in Washington.

Another example is one in which identification was established following a report received from Germany through the International Red Cross that the effect that a member of the Corps had died of wounds and was buried in a village in France. The officer's name had been garbled in transmission by cable, and even though a check of War Department records disclosed an officer with a similar name who was reported missing over that vicinity on a date that coincided with the report received through the International Red Cross, there was not sufficient evidence to make positive identification. Two months later, the Allied forces overran that territory and entered the village in which the officer was buried. The War Department immediately wired the Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations and gave him all details available concerning the individual who was missing, quoted the report received through the International Red Cross, and asked if the two were the same man. The reply was received. The grave had been located and the officer buried there had been identified positively as the man carried as missing in action by the War Department.

A fourth instance is similar in conception but again different in circumstances. There was a report received from the North African Theater of Operations of the death of an unidentified soldier of the Ground Forces. It gave his height and the serial number of his rifle. The Casualty Branch checked with the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, getting the name of the division which had been assigned the block of serial numbers containing this particular number. The division was stationed

Publication of German Camp Reports

A few readers have complained that PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN devotes far more space to reports on, and letters from, Stalag Luft III than to other camps in Germany for American airmen. Reference is made in particular to Stalag Luft I, Stalag Luft IV, and Stalag XVII B. Some relatives of men in Luftwaffe camps other than Stalag Luft III, unfortunately, seem to have the impression that the latter is a "country club in the pines," and that the prisoners there have a sort of privileged status compared with the men in other camps.

The one and only reason why the BULLETIN has published more about Stalag Luft III than about any other German camp is because there has been more to publish. The same applies to photographs. About nine out of every ten that have so far reached the Red Cross have been from the relatives of men in Stalag Luft III. It is the oldest and probably the best organized camp for Americans in Germany. The other Luftwaffe camps, and several of the Stalags for enlisted men, are comparatively new camps so far as Americans are concerned. Very little is known yet about some of these camps, but whenever information on them that may be published reaches the Red Cross, readers can rest assured that, whether this information is favorable or unfavorable, it will be given in the BULLETIN.

It is quite understandable that the relatives of a prisoner—say, in Stalag Luft IV—are disappointed when practically no direct mention of that camp appears in an issue of the BULLETIN, but

when that occurs it is only because there is nothing available for publication about the camp. Much detailed information about Luftwaffe camps, including Stalag Luft III, reaches the American government through official channels from the Swiss government, which is charged with the protection of American interests in Germany. If the confidential character of these reports were not properly safeguarded, their value would be seriously impaired. It is on the basis of these reports (as well as on the reports of camp visits made by Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which, however, may be published) that the State Department is able to take action for the proper observance by the Detaining Power of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The safeguarding of the rights of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention is primarily a governmental, and not a Red Cross, function.

No doubt as the newer camps for Americans get better organized, and are more frequently reported on by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other welfare organizations like War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA, more information on them will be available for publication in the BULLETIN. But, in the meantime, relatives who have men in camps about which little is known at present can gather much general information by reading the camp reports which are published. Conditions which affect one camp are likely to affect, in greater or lesser degree, all other camps in Germany.

in the area where the deceased soldier was found, and a message was sent there giving the serial number of the rifle, asking to whom it had been assigned, and that individual's present status. The reply received stated the rifle had been assigned to a soldier then carried as missing in action. The check made in the Casualty Branch revealed that this person had been reported to the War Department as missing in action and the report had been forwarded to the family, that his height was identical with that of the deceased soldier; and in this way, another identification was established.


These are examples of only one type of solutions made through the vast network maintained for the purpose of determining the fate of army personnel missing or missing in action. By results such as these can be judged the degree to which the 75 officers and 2,000 employees of the Casualty Branch of The Adjutant General's Office live up to their creed, ever before them, which is set forth

in these words:

We, the officers and civilian employees of the Casualty Branch, are dealing with the distressing results of war. Our problems are those of life and death. As such they are as widespread as the borders of our country and reach out to all our people regardless of creed, race, or station. They concern the wounded, the missing, and those who have given their very lives that the institutions of our country, of which we are all so proud, might live. It is necessary therefore, that all of us realize that this is not just another assignment or just another job but rather a singular opportunity to render a service, excelling all others, to distraught and grief-stricken relatives. The privilege of rendering this service is our reward: There is none greater.

The activities of the Casualty Branch will, of course, be continued after the termination of hostilities until the possibilities of determining the fate of every missing soldier have been exhausted.

Letters


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American prisoners at Stalag II B. Sent by Pvt. Mitchell Lysak. No other names given.

bunks, took turns at icy water in the prison block washrooms, and munched breakfast of Reich bread and Red Cross jam and coffee. Because of gray drizzle outside, "Appell" (roll call) was counted indoors by blocks. American "Kriegies" opened books, broke out decks of cards, and prepared to while away another of the monotonous days of prison life.

Your permanently assigned correspondent ferreted some paper from the old locker and began to write a short story in mood with the dirty sky, about a most unfortunate fictional character suffering from barbed-wire psychosis. Thus we dramatized our predicament, feeling sorry for our fictional character, shamefully pitying ourselves and each other, until that dreary drizzle stopped. Such is any dank morning beneath the reign of mother towers. With the clean air came lunch—more Red Cross victuals, still appetizing after 400 days of parcel existence. God bless the Red Cross and clean air. After lunch, this caged city's metropolitan life began. The band practiced in the cookhouse, classes were in session, actors rehearsed in the theater, and promenaders strolled along the wooden guardrail inside the wire boundaries. Halfway through his short story, your "Kriegie" writer began to wonder if he could make barbed-wire psychosis read convincingly in a story.

Then IT happened! The Padre announced it first. Doors opened, voices called, men started running to the cookhouse. Classes stopped, rehearsal ended, the band broke up. Thrilled throngs of Americans crowded around the cookhouse loudspeaker to hear the German news translated. It had come! Finally, oh, at last! For 13½ hours we had actually existed oblivious to the second greatest day of our lives. The psychosis story is burning in the stove now. Your humbled writer is praying to God tonight. There are angels in worse hells than this.

Far Eastern

Zentsuji War Prison Camp, Japan
April 1944

Dear Mother and Dad:

Received all letters up to September 11, 1943, except for June and July. Also cable March 20. Mail, news, and looking forward to docking in 'Frisco constitute the daily bread of our existence—literally as well as figuratively. Please explain to all that I am restricted in letters and must depend on you to conduct my correspondence. Promise to make up for it on return. Lots of work for you, old man, and I deeply appreciate it. Hope you may find some recompense in thought that mail is one of the major events in our existence. Am devoting one of my few letters to acknowledging receipt of a few, but can't afford another. In future count on more letters reaching me, and even, if no general news, "homey" details such as a trip to market, a walk around the lake, are the stuff upon which imagination feeds. In good health, weight 160, and have added Spanish, Japanese, and history to studies. Also give a psych. course and do much reading. Change requisition to fleeced slippers instead of moccasins, and cheese and chocolate for some tobacco. Mention photos to everyone. Don't ever worry about me. These last few years have had some salutary effect. One must develop a philosophy embodying patience, tolerance,

humility, and service. Rare virtues in such an individualistic world. Would like a letter or so from mother in with yours.

Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1

(Undated. Received at Bristol, Conn.)
Health good. Take good care of yourself. Please don't worry about me. Think very much of you and the gang. Hope it has no casualties. Give my regards to all. Radiogram best communication. Suggest you try it. All my love to you. May it be God's will to bring us together again.

63 Great Western Road, Shanghai

May 15, 1944
The American Red Cross,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Sirs:

I am requested by all American residents of this Civil Assembly Center, and others who have benefited, to express to your heartfelt thanks for the much appreciated supplies of clothing, medicines, etc., which were delivered by the International Red Cross, by arrangement with the Japanese authorities, on April 21. They would request that all concerned in the organizing of the supply and delivery of these cases be made aware of their gratitude and appreciation, not only of the goods themselves but of the excellent choice that has been exercised in their selection.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) N. W. B. CLARKE.

(Letters similar to the above have been received from the Civil Assembly Centers at Chapei, Footing, and Lungwa.)

Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 10-A

(Undated. Received at Litchfield, Minn.)
Longing to see you, and missing you a lot. Hope the war will end soon, so I can come home and be with you. Hope you are as well as I am and God bless you. Please write through the Red Cross.

Taiwan
25th May, 1944

Dear Dad:

The warmer weather is with us now, so we have fixed up a tennis court, and man-

age to get in an hour's play before the evening meal. I can assure you that with the help of the Red Cross and the tennis I am feeling very fit, and hope that I can manage to stay like this until the end of my captivity. The camp livestock, which is under my charge, is coming along very nicely—we have had a cow added to our ranks recently. Although she is in calf, we get about 4-5 pints of milk a day, half of which goes to the camp hospital. One of the officers is very keen on amateur dramatics, so a few of us got together and produced "The Skin Game" by John Galsworthy. As you know, I was always too shy to be of any good in the acting line, but I seem to have lost that shyness, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. We are now rehearsing "Exiled" by the same author, and hope to put it on in a few weeks.

(The above letter, from a British officer captured in the Malaya campaign to his father in England, carries the latest date seen here, up to late October, on prisoner of war mail from the Far East.)

Fukuoka, Camp No. 3

(Undated. Received at Weymouth, Mass.)
Dearest Mother:

I hope this letter finds you and Grannie as you were when I left. I am healthy and in good spirits, and am working for pay. Love to all.

(The writer of the above letter, a motor machinist mate, served on the submarine "Grenadier." He was captured about 18 months ago.)

Zentsuji War Prison Camp No. 1

January 25, 1944

My dearest Wife, Mother and All:
Received your package of 1942. Just the things I needed. Shoes a perfect fit. Vitamins I like, and tobacco welcome. Received total 48 letters, 3 from mother. The pictures are wonderful. Send more. Mother looks good. I am fine. Only one cold this winter. Have requested that my life insurance be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Have taken up chess. A very good game. Love to all.



Prisoners of war at Zentsuji. Top row: Kliever, Mellon, Wood, Marks. Bottom row: Webb, Martin, Hein. Photo taken December 15, 1943.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can photographs be sent with air mail forms to prisoners of war? Yes, but the photograph should be stitched to the letter form. Do not write underneath the picture. The name and number of the prisoner should be given on the back of the picture.

have no use for the tobacco labels as my son, who is a prisoner in Germany, does not smoke. Can they be exchanged for other labels?

No.
Is it true that the Germans demand three enlisted men in exchange for every American officer repatriated?

No. Article 68 of the Geneva Convention of 1929 states that: Belligerents are bound to send back to their own country, regardless of rank or number, seriously sick and seriously injured prisoners of war, after having brought them to a condition where they can be transported. Agreements between belligerents shall accordingly settle as soon as possible the cases of invalidity or of sickness, entailing direct repatriation, as well as the cases entailing possible hospitalization in a neutral country.

Before an exchange takes place, the respective belligerents agree on the approximate number of prisoners to be repatriated. The number varies with each exchange. As the United States holds over 200,000 German prisoners more than the number of Americans held by Germany, the Germans eligible for repatriation must naturally exceed the number of Americans.

Many of the families of prisoners of war in the Far East, unfortunately, cannot afford the \$6.60 which it costs to send the one cablegram a year now permitted. Cannot this charge be waived, in cases of real emergency?

In such cases, the American Red Cross is prepared to pay the entire cost of the cable. The circumstances should be explained, by a member of the family, to the local chapter of the Red Cross.

My brother, a paratrooper, was captured by the Germans. I have

been told that all letter mail for airborne troops should be addressed to Stalag Luft III, followed by the proper camp address in brackets. Should I so address my letters to him?

A. No. The Germans do not regard paratroopers, or airborne troops, as airmen. Mail, therefore, should be addressed directly to the camp to which your brother has been assigned. If you have not yet received his camp address, you may write him in care of the International Red Cross Directory Service, Geneva, Switzerland. On the envelope, give your brother's full name and rank, followed by "American Prisoner of War in Germany."

Q. What should the family do when notification has been received that the soldier is a prisoner of war with known address and number, but labels have not been received after several months?

A. Write to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Q. My brother is a prisoner of war at Stalag II B. His last letter, following the camp number, added the words "Arb. Kdo. 1575." What do these words mean? Should they be included in the address when we write to him?

A. "Arb. Kdo. No. 1575" means *Arbeits Kommando*. No. 1575, or work detachment No. 1575. All mail for a Stalag is sorted at the base camp. There is no objection to adding the prisoner's Kdo. number to the camp address.

Q. If a boy was with the French underground, and the territory is now in possession of the Allies, how soon may we expect to hear from him?

A. A number of Allied airmen who had been reported missing in action have recently reestablished contact with their armies as they advanced through France and Belgium. In such cases, the men invariably get word by cable to their families at the earliest possible opportunity.

Q. Does the Red Cross supply the lists of prisoners of war which

are published in the newspapers?

A. No. All casualty lists are prepared for the press by the War Department Bureau of Public Relations on the basis of reports from the Casualty Branch of The Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D. C., which also notifies the emergency addressee (next of kin) before the lists are released.

Q. Are prisoners constantly being exchanged, or must my husband remain in Germany for the duration?

A. While hostilities continue, the Geneva Convention provides only for the repatriation of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. Separate provision is made in the Red Cross Convention for the repatriation of "protected personnel" (chaplains, doctors, sanitary personnel, and so forth).

Extracts From Letters

Far Eastern

From Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1, undated, received at Roby, Texas, in August: "Received your cable last week, and am very glad to know you are all right. I am getting along very good, so do not worry about me. Write to me soon. Love to all."

From Zentsuji War Prison Camp, dated December 1943, received at Central, New Mexico, in August: "The New Mexico boys here are all well, and all have received many letters. Al has received 6 to date. One mentions a dipping in the SC paper about all of us. Al, Jim and Jack send their regards. Have the Elys or Ashbys received word from the boys? Mother, write to Mrs. Clem Suttman, Batesville, Ind., Mrs. I. B. Richards, Rodeo and Jack's sister, and tell them all is well. Hope my allotment is coming through and Dad is taking care of my insurance and using the balance as he sees fit. I am enclosing my Christmas presents, three photos of myself. Do not worry about me, just think of that grand reunion we are going to have on the Old Rancho upon my return. We will kill the best fat yearling on the ranch and have all that goes with it."

A recent shortwave broadcast from an American sergeant at Camp Hoten, Manchuria: "Hello folks, may next Christmas find us all united for a big dinner. My health is good and I have been receiving good treatment. The Vatican donated a fund which was used for the purchase of musical instruments and recreational equipment. I wrote a postcard, but so far there has been no reply."

"Just received your box sent August 22, 1943. Am happy as a kid at Christmas. Words can't express my feelings or thanks. No letters yet, but waiting patiently." From

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Zentsuji dated January 26, 1944, and received at Minneapolis, Minn., on August 4.

A letter received in Memphis, Tenn., in August from Zentsuji, said, in part: "Still well and in good spirits, so don't worry. Hope you are all well at home. By the way, Dad, I've learned to appreciate your 'bay window.' Here's to bigger and better ones."

"I am in fair health. I am still working here in Osaka along with some of my shipmates. Please do not worry. I do hope to hear from you," wrote a prisoner at Osaka to his mother in Geraldine, Montana. The card was received in August.

"I find my stay here very interesting and the time passes quickly. I hope all of you are in the best of health and prosperity. Say hello to everyone for me and be sure to include my new nephews and nieces—I should have some," wrote a marine corporal from Umeda Bunsho to his family in Wyatt, Indiana. Received in August.

An ensign held at Zentsuji wrote in April to his mother in Washington, D. C.: "Just yesterday I received a telegram from you, Mother, and also have received at least one letter dated every month from you. They are most enjoyable. Sorry to see that you have to print. Perhaps you could get your letters typed at the office. Still well and in good spirits, and still hoping to see you soon."

European

A prisoner at Marlag Milag Nord wrote to his wife in New Britain, Conn., in June: "I've been getting quite a lot of letters lately, they are old but that doesn't make any difference. I've had about five hundred or more from you. I'm here sitting listening to some new records; they sure make me homesick. We're still having bad weather here, but nothing bothers me since the 6th! I hope it won't be much longer."

"I have received 12 cartons of cigarettes and one other parcel so far, and am looking for the other food parcels soon," a private at Stalag II B wrote his family in Wooster, Ohio, on May 28.

A letter received in the latter part of August by the brother of a prisoner at Luft III said, in part: "Life still drags on here. Our mail and parcels are about the only interruption to the monotony. We have camp entertainment in the form of shows and music, enacted by all of us. I even sang in one show; sang in a quartet. The YMCA and the Red Cross have sent in athletic equipment and musical instruments. We also received one Red Cross food parcel per man per week. Aside from the good work, thank my friends for writing, and explain to them why I can't answer. Every little article and letter has infinite value, since they are all we have to look forward to."

An Australian prisoner of war in Germany wrote on March 31 last to an official of the British Red Cross in London: "The American Red Cross has got magnificently organized, and provides each new prisoner as he goes through the transit camp with a complete new set of clothes, and, in fact, almost everything."

A sergeant at Stalag XVII B wrote to his family at Lewiston, Maine, on June 12 last: "We have volleyball and bridge to keep us occupied besides school subjects and baseball. Except for the fence and the guards, one might think it was an exclusive resort. Boys are all sunning themselves with few exceptions. There are all kinds of boys here, musicians, cooks, and many others who flew for Uncle Sam. Here, they all revert to their old professions to make life a little more pleasant and time pass a little faster. There are a swell bunch of boys here, and all seem to have the co-operative spirit. We chat and reminisce of good times in the past and ones to come soon we hope."

PARCELS FOR GERMANY Prohibited Items

German postal regulations prohibit the inclusion of the following items in individual parcels addressed to prisoners of war:

Money of any kind; civilian clothing; underwear that could be made over into civilian clothing (special work clothing, sweaters, and athletic suits are permitted); weapons and weapon-like tools, including large pocket-knives and shears; munition and blasting materials; tools which could be used for escape purposes or sabotage; printing apparatus, charcoal, and tracing paper; compasses, maps, knapsacks, cameras and lenses; electric lamps, lighters of any kind and candles; alcoholic drinks, except wines; inflammable liquids, matches and fire hazards; telephones, radios, or parts thereof; chemicals, acids, and medicines; books, maps, newspapers, and printed matter; cigarette holders and papers; plain paper, notebooks and postcards; potatoes.

If any parcels contain prohibited articles, the regulations state, they will be confiscated, and only the permitted items will be delivered to the prisoner.

"I have been recalled to the Stalag, presume that my 'Med.' proof has arrived from Washington," wrote a prisoner at Stalag II B to his family in New Jersey. He added: "After spending seven months on Kommando, it sure is good to have a rest. Time passes much slower when you're not working, but time won't stop, 'thank God.'"

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OF TEXAS

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

3, No. 1

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 1945

Moving Supplies to Prison Camps

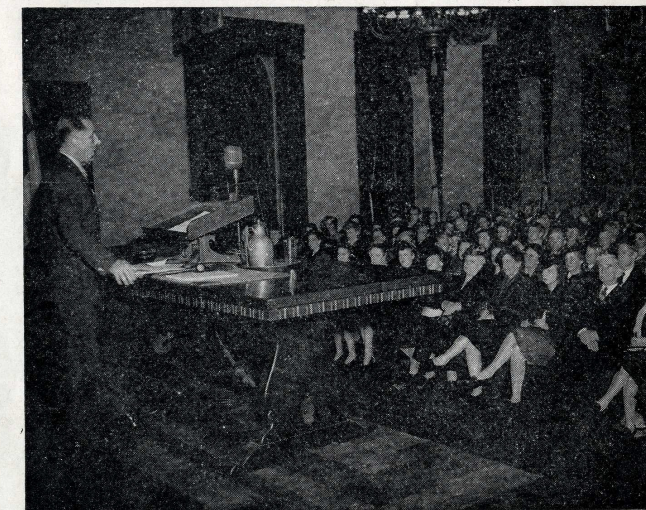
By Henry Wasmer

Wasmer is chief of the Relief Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He left Geneva on October 18 last for Berlin and Goteborg, and reached the United States in November, on the maiden voyage of the Swedish ship Salvo to discuss supply problems with officials of the American Red Cross. On December 11 he addressed a relief meeting in Washington, D. C., and returned to Europe later in the month. His was most timely and useful.—Ed.

Despite increasing difficulties imposed by the greatly intensified bombing of Germany and the heavy fighting now taking place on that country's borders, I can assure the wives and friends of American prisoners of war that the food packages and other relief items sent by the American Red Cross are actually reaching the men in the camps. Only recently as last October, I saw supplies moving into German camps, and since then I have received reports by cable from Red Cross headquarters in Switzerland that relief goods are still moving regularly into Germany. Certain difficulties, however, are only to be expected in a country under continuous bombing from the air, and when primary targets are railroad junctions, bridges, marshaling yards, and rolling stock.

International Committee of the Red Cross

Before I go into further detail, I would like to explain why it is really necessary to make Geneva, Switzerland, the clearing house and distributing center for prisoners of war relief. Although the name International Committee of the Red Cross implies an international institution, the Committee as such is Swiss. Its 20 to 25 members must be of Swiss nationality, but the Committee's activities are exclusively international. In peacetime, it performs the rather formal function of



Mr. Henry Wasmer, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, speaking in Washington, D. C., before 500 relatives of American prisoners of war. The meeting was arranged by the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Red Cross.

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